

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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SUBJECT: FIRST OF BILATERAL TALKS BETWEEN UNITED STATES
AND VENEZUELA

REF: STATE 46560

1. INITIAL SESSION IN NEW SERIES BILATERAL TALKS
CONTEMPLATED REFTEL WAS HELD MARCH 6.
2. VENEZUELAN PARTICIPANTS WERE: AMBASSADOR BURELLI,
MINISTER-COUNSELOR PAPARONI, FINANCIAL MINISTER-COUNSELOR
AND IMF GOVERNOR GUARNIERI, COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR PIETRI,
AND THIRD SECRETARY OF EMBASSY MARIA CRISTINA HERNANDEZ.
3. US PARTICIPANTS WERE: ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS,
ARA OFFICERS DEVINE, JOHNSON, KNEPPER, MELTON, SONANDRES
AND BENTLEY, PLUS DEPUTY DIRECTOR POLICY PLANNING STAFF
SAMUEL W. LEWIS.

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4. OFFICE DIRECTOR DEVINE MADE INTRODUCTIONS AND BRIEF

REVIEW OF EVENTS LEADING TO PRESENT SERIES OF TALKS, WHICH HE HOPED WOULD REDUCE IF NOT ELIMINATE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY A PAST LACK OF REAL DIALOGUE. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS THEN WELCOMED VENEZUELAN GUESTS AND MADE OPENING REMARKS ON CHANGING NATURE OF WORLD COMMUNITY,

GROWING SENSE OF INTERDEPENDENCE, IMPORTANCE ATTACHED BY US TO RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA IN GENERAL AND VENEZUELA IN PARTICULAR, AND INTEREST AND PLEASURE WITH WHICH HE WITNESSED THIS START OF BILATERAL TALKS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THEMES OF THE SECRETARY'S MARCH 1 HOUSTON SPEECH WOULD FREQUENTLY COME UP IN THE TALKS. AMBASSADOR BURELLI RESPONDED IN APPROPRIATE VEIN, NOTING THAT TALKS COULD PROVE TO BE MODEL FOR US CONDUCT OF RELATIONS WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

5. LEWIS THEN GAVE MAIN PRESENTATION ON STATE OF TODAY'S WORLD UNDER FOLLOWING FOUR GENERAL HEADINGS:

A. REGIONAL PROBLEMS AND CONFLICTS (INCLUDING MIDDLE EAST, INDOCHINA, AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, WHICH ARE OUR MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEMS;

B. ADVERSARY RELATIONSHIPS (MAINLY USSR AND CHINA);

C. ALLIANCE STRUCTURE (INCLUDING NATO, JAPAN AND GENERAL EUROPEAN RELATIONSHIPS); AND

D. PROBLEMS OF INTERDEPENDENCE (INCLUDING FOOD, ENERGY, TRADE, COMMODITIES, MONETARY STRUCTURES, ETC) WHICH, EXCEPT FOR CATEGORY A, ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT.

HE EMPHASIZED THAT LATIN AMERICA AND VENEZUELA FIT INTO AND PLAY IMPORTANT PART IN THIS OVER-ALL PICTURE AND THIS PROVIDES FURTHER COMPELLING REASON FOR US TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION AND UNDERSTANDING WITH THEM. ALL CONCURRED WITH LEWIS' VIEW THAT VENEZUELA HAD A FOOT IN CAMPS OF BOTH THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING WORLDS AND COULD SERVE AS A KEY INTERPRETER OR GUIDE IN WORKING OUT PROBLEMS OF INTERDEPENDENCE.

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6. IN ENSUING DISCUSSION PERIOD, VENEZUELAN ASKED ABOUT SYRIA-EGYPT RELATIONSHIP, SIHANOUK POSITION IN CAMBODIA, AND PARIS ENERGY CONFERENCE AND ANSWERED QUESTION ON ALGIERS OPEC SUMMIT BY CITING REASONABLY CONSTRUCTIVE POSITION TAKEN THERE BY PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ.

7. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS CLOSED MEETING BY EXPRESS-

ING THANKS TO PARTICIPANTS, REPEATING OUR INTEREST IN
CLOSEST POSSIBLE UNDERSTANDING WITH VENEZUELA, LAUDING
CONCEPT OF DIALOGUE FOR THAT PURPOSE, AND REACHING
AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE THAT SECOND SESSION WOULD BE

HELD FRIDAY, MARCH 21 AND DEAL WITH REGIONAL PROBLEMS
OF THE HEMISPHERE, AN AGENDA FOR WHICH WILL BE PREPARED
PRIOR TO THAT DATE. INGERSOLL

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